



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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13 November 1978

Mr. Sidney Hurlburt
Editor
Burlington Free Press
191 College Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Dear Sir:

I have just seen your editorial of 13 October, "CIA's Unrelenting Arrogance."

Providing your readers with editorial judgments which they trust and believe is an awesome responsibility. To provide such judgments based on false information without any attempt to verify your facts is faulty journalism at best. To provide such judgments based on ignorance of the facts is frightening. In your editorial of the 13th you have accomplished both.

Based on a story in the Wilmington Journal--like the Free Press a Gannett newspaper--you report that five CIA officials have put pressure on the Maryland State Police to drop the investigation into the death of a former CIA employee and consultant. A call to my office or to the Maryland State Police would have provided you with the information that the charge made by the Wilmington Journal was utterly irresponsible and ridiculous. If you did not believe my answer you could have had the decency to call me a liar in print.

In closing your editorial you demand the President and the Congress to hold the CIA accountable for its deeds and to impose severe restrictions to assure the American people and others that it (the CIA) will not overstep its bounds again.

Where have you been?

In January of this year President Carter signed Executive Order 12036, "United States Intelligence Activities" which spells out in great detail what the CIA can and cannot do. Some 18 months ago the President created